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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1245
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1943
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 002425

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [MARR](#) [UN](#) [NP](#)
SUBJECT: MAOIST LEADERSHIP RATCHETS UP THE PRESSURE; SAYS
NO TO UN

REF: A. KATHMANDU 2166

[1](#)B. KATHMANDU 2253
[1](#)C. KATHMANDU 2348

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Summary

[1](#)1. (C) The leadership of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) has decided after its recent Central Committee meeting to increase its pressure on the Government of Nepal. The most striking result of the August 27-31 meeting was the leaders' announcements September 2 and 3 that Maoist combatants would not go into cantonments. Prachanda's repudiation of this key Maoist commitment from his (and Prime Minister Koirala's identical) August 9 letter to Secretary General Annan makes it clear that the Maoists have no intention of allowing the United Nations to separate them from their weapons. End Summary.

Maoist Central Committee Ups the Pressure

[1](#)2. (C) At a press conference two days after the August 27-31 meeting of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-M) Central Committee concluded, Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara issued a statement setting forth an aggressive agenda. The statement, which was signed by CPN-M Chairman Prachanda, denounced the governing Seven-Party Alliance for having "conspired with regressive elements (domestic and foreign)" and for betraying "the spirit of the (April 2006) People's Movement" by cooperating "with regressive palace elements" (read: the King) instead of the CPN-M. It condemned efforts by the Government of Nepal (GON) to focus public attention on Maoist arms only, rather than "a complete political solution." In light of these circumstances, the Central Committee resolved to raise up another people's movement if the GON did not mend its ways. According to the statement, the Central Committee had determined that there was an immediate need "for a broad republican front, which includes all political powers, civil society, the intellectual class, and social organizations in favor of a complete republic, peace, and progress."

Maoists Say No To Cantonments

13. (C) The headline out of Mahara's September 2 press conference and a press conference by Maoist supremo Prachanda on September 3 was the Central Committee's decision that it would not confine its fighters to camps. Mahara explained that the CPN-M did not intend to send its combatants to cantonments or give up its arms until the country's political issues were completely settled. The Maoists, he said, had no intention of repeating the mistakes of the Nepali Congress Party and the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist which gave up their weapons in 1950 and 1971, respectively. First, the monarchy had to be abolished and the Nepali Army restructured. Prachanda stated that the People's Liberation Army would not be confined in cantonments until the state was completely restructured. Specifically, the Central Committee resolved that arms management was not possible without agreement on "a package for a full political resolution." The Central Committee statement went on to say that "to concentrate the People's Liberation Army in temporary camps should not and cannot be done." Prachanda also announced at his press conference that the insurgents were abandoning the negotiating process and would instead insist on a summit meeting between PM Koirala and a 10-person Maoist team headed by Prachanda.

Request To UN Repudiated

14. (C) Prachanda's announcement came less than one month after he and Prime Minister Koirala signed identical letters to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan requesting the UN's assistance in five areas (Refs A, B). The so-called

Five-Point Agreement of August 9 asked the UN to "Deploy qualified civilian personnel to monitor and verify the confinement of CPN (Maoist) combatants and their weapons within designated cantonments." It went on to request the UN's aid in the management of the arms and armed personnel of both sides with the modalities to be worked out later by the Government of Nepal, the Maoists and the UN. Pursuant to the Five-Point Agreement, Secretary General Annan appointed senior UN official Ian Martin as his personal representative for the peace process (Ref C). Martin arrived in Kathmandu on August 28.

Comment

15. (C) The Maoist decision to repudiate its commitment to the UN regarding deploying its combatants to cantonments is deeply troubling. We never shared the widespread view within the Government of Nepal (from PM Koirala down) that the UN would be a panacea. Still, placing their combatants in cantonments would have deprived the Maoists of some of their ability to threaten the Nepali public and could perhaps have led to a staged process separating the Maoists from their weapons. Those hopes appear now to have been dashed. The September 2 Central Committee statement makes no mention whatsoever of the Five-Point Agreement. This may indicate an across-the-board hardening of the Maoist position against the UN. That interpretation is consistent with media reports that described Ian Martin's initial meeting with the Maoists as rocky. David Johnson, the acting head of the Nepal office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which Martin headed until recently, told us September 7 that the tough attitude could be posturing. We are not so sure. Rather, by doing everything possible to ratchet up the pressure on the GON, the Maoists are making compromise on their part virtually impossible.

MORIARTY